

THRILLING TALES OF HORROR & SUSPENSE

SEPT. NO.8

EERIE
ADVENTURES

DARK MYSTERIES

10¢



TERROR OF THE GHOSTLY TRAIL
AND OTHER SUSPENSE STORIES.



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

HERE'S PROOF...

How This Amazing New
Scientific Formula
Called Comate May Help You

Save Your Hair



If you are troubled by thinning hair, dry itchy scalp, dandruff, if you fear approaching baldness—here is GOOD NEWS!

Now available to you is the amazing new Comate Medicinal Formula, developed after years of painstaking research. Comate effectively controls seborrhea—the scalp disease now believed by many leading doctors to be the most common

cause of hair loss and eventual baldness. These doctors declare that three types of dangerous scalp organisms are the cause of this scalp disease: staphylococcus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and corynebacterium acnes.

First, Comate was put to a series of rigid tests on cultures of these hair-destroying bacteria. HERE ARE THE STARTLING RESULTS!

PROOF 1

Comate Medicinal Formula killed the three test cultures—staphylococcus albus, pityrosporum ovale, corynebacterium acnes—in 50 seconds! Report #8099, June 17, 1950, by a leading independent testing laboratory.

(Complete report on file, copy on request)

Our research chemists were still not satisfied. Yes, Comate had proved itself in the test tube, but would Comate work as well on the human hair and scalp? And so another—a second—series of

experiments was prescribed, to test Comate on the hair and scalps of men and women. Here is the remarkable performance of Comate when applied directly to the human scalp.

PROOF 2

Comate Medicinal Formula, applied directly to scalps of men and women, killed 88.4% of all scalp bacteria, after 15 minutes application. Report #26633, December 14, 1950, by a leading independent testing laboratory.

(Complete report on file, copy on request)

After this proof of success both in the laboratory and on the scalps of men and women, Comate was put to the third test—the toughest of them all. Comate was sold by the thousands on

a DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE in a number of typical American areas. In 3 short months we have learned that our work and faith in Comate have been vindicated.

PROOF 3

Letters of gratitude hailing Comate have poured into our offices. By word-of-mouth the amazing results with Comate have been told far more effectively than we could in this advertisement. And only 1.9% of Comate users have asked for and received double their money back. Imagine! 98.1% of our customers were delighted with the sensational results from Comate Formula. Report July 27, 1951, by Certified Public Accountant.

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Read the PROOF from the laboratory tests—the PROOF from the scalp tests—the PROOF in the letters of gratitude from happy men and women who have found Comate the answer to their scalp troubles.

Comate must accomplish for you what it has for thousands of men and women. You must be completely satisfied, or DOUBLE YOUR MONEY will be returned to you. We take all the risk.

Not even Comate can grow hair from dead hair follicles—so DON'T DELAY—fill out the no-risk coupon while there is still a chance to have thicker-stronger-healthier looking hair. Mail the coupon TODAY.

Actual Experiences of Skeptical Men and Women PROVE HAIR CAN BE GROWN From Live Hair Follicles

- "I used to comb out a handful of hair at a time. Now I only get 4-6 on my comb. The terrible itching has stopped."
—L.H.M., Los Angeles, Cal.
- "My hair has quit falling out and getting thin."
—O.W.G., c/o FPO, N.Y.
- "My husband has tried many treatments and spent a great deal of money on his scalp. Nothing helped until he started using your formula."
—Mrs. R. LEO, Piqua, Ohio
- "Used it twice and my hair has already stopped falling."
—R.H., Corona, Cal.
- "Comate is successful in every way you mention. Used it only a few days and can see the big change in my scalp and hair."
—C.E.N., N. Richland, Wash.
- "My hair was thin at the temples, and all over. Now it looks so much thicker, I can tell it."
—Miss C.T., San Angelo, Tex.
- "I've used a good many different 'tonics.' But until I tried Comate, I had no results. Now I'm rid of dandruff, and itchy scalp. My hair looks thicker."
—G.E., Alberta, Canada
- "My hair has improved. It used to fall out by handfuls. Comate stopped it from falling out."
—O.M.H., Oklahoma City, Okla.
- "Now my hair looks quite thick."
—F.J.K., Chicago, Ill.
- "My hair had been coming out and breaking off for about 21 years and Comate has improved it so much."
—Mrs. J.E., Lisbon, Ga.
- "No trouble with dandruff since I started using it."
—L.W.W., Galveston, Tex.
- "It really has improved my hair in one week, and I know what the result will be in three more. I am so happy over it, I had to write!"
—Mrs. H.J., McComb, Miss.

These are a few of the unsolicited testimonials received every day from grateful men and women all over the country. Once you've tried Comate you'll rave about it, too!

RUSH THIS NO-RISK COUPON NOW!

COMATE LABORATORIES INC., DEPT. 6708-C
1432 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y.
Please rush my bottle (30-days supply) of Comate Hair and Scalp Formula in plain wrapper. I must be completely satisfied or you guarantee DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

☐ Enclosed find \$5.00, Fed. tax incl. (Check, cash, money order.) Send postpaid.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman \$5.00 plus postal charges.

Name.....
Address.....
City..... Zone..... State.....
APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign—No C.O.D.'s

DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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TERROR OF THE PHANTOM TRAIL!



TO SAVE A HUNDRED MILES OF TRACKS, THE PACIFIC STATE RAILROAD SENT ME, HAL CHASE, TO FIND THE LOST RIVERS PASS THROUGH PINE MOUNTAINS! THE WINDS HOWLED, SHARP BRANCHES SNAPPED AT MY FACE! WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO SUCCEED, THEN I SUDDENLY CAME UPON THE DILAPIDATED BROWN SHACK... A WELCOME REFUGE, I THOUGHT! BUT THE STRANGE LOOKING MAN WHO INHABITED THE SHACK, AND THE PRESERVED CORPSE OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, CHILLED ME WITH A DREADFUL FOREBODING!

BETTER STAY HERE, STRANGER!
NO USE SEARCHING FOR THE LOST
TRAIL... YOU WON'T FIND IT!

WHAT THE...
WHO IS THAT GIRL
IN THE COFFIN?

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE PACIFIC STATE RAIL-
ROAD COMPANY, GAVE ME
MY ORDERS TO FIND THE
LOST PASS ACROSS PINE
MOUNTAINS! HE WARNED
ME THAT FIVE MEN BEFORE
ME HAD DIED IN THE QUEST,
BUT TO FIND IT WOULD
SAVE A HUNDRED MILES
OF TRACKS!

YOU'RE THE BEST
MAN WE COULD
FIND, MR. CHASE!
GOOD LUCK!

IF
THERE
IS
SUCH
A PASS,
I'LL FIND
IT! I'M NOT
AFRAID!

IT WAS A DIFFICULT, LONELY
TREK ACROSS PINE
MOUNTAINS! A FUTILE WEEK
OF STRUGGLING AGAINST
WILD WEATHER, AND
ANIMALS, AND I WAS
READY TO GIVE UP..

NOT A SIGN OF A TRAIL
IN A WEEK! IT MUST
BE A PHANTOM
TRAIL!



John D. Apertone

THE WHOLE EXPEDITION SEEMED HOPELESS, WHEN MY EYES FELL UPON A CRUDE MARKING ON A ROCK...A DOUBLE-CROSS! THE MARK I WAS LOOKING FOR...



I FOUND IT! THE START OF THE RIVERS PASS!

MY LUCK WAS GOOD! I CONTINUED TO FIND THE MARKS OF THE DOUBLE-CROSS ALONG THE PASS! MY SEARCH WAS ALMOST FINISHED...

I FOUND IT! NOW I'LL COMPLETE MY MAP!

SOON I CAME UPON AN OLD SHACK! I WONDERED WHO PUT IT THERE IN THIS WILDERNESS, BUT I WAS GLAD TO FIND SHELTER FROM THE WHIPPING RAIN...

WHAT LUCK! I MUST GET DRY AND WARM!

INSIDE THE SHACK, IT WAS DIM AND MUSTY! I HASTENED TO BUILD A FIRE...

IT'S GOOD TO FEEL WARM AGAIN!

AFTER THAWING OUT I STARTED TO EXPLORE THE SHACK, ONLY TO LET OUT A GASP OF SHOCKED TERROR AT THE SIGHT OF A BOX CONTAINING A...

W-WHAT'S THAT? MY GOD, IT LOOKS LIKE A...A DEAD GIRL!

HALF-PARALYZED IN CONTEMPLATING THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL, I THOUGHT I HEARD A SOUND AND TURNED TO LOOK BEHIND ME...

WH...WHO ARE YOU? D-DON'T STRIKE ME!

GO BACK-GO BACK! YOU WILL NEVER FIND THE PASS!

THE OLD MAN HAD AN AWFUL STRENGTH! I COULD ONLY STRUGGLE IN HIS GRIP...

SO YOU'VE MADE A MAP OF THE PASS! YOU FOOL, NOW YOU MUST DIE!

I'LL HUMOR THIS GUY!

I'LL GO BACK! YOU... TAKE THE... MAP!

SOMEHOW I CONVINCED THE OLD MAN I WOULD NOT CONTINUE MY SEARCH FOR THE PASS...

YOU WIN... BUT WHO IS THAT GIRL?

YOUNG FELLA, IF YOU TRY TO GO ANY FURTHER, YOU MUST DIE! I'LL ONLY I CAN KNOW THE TRAIL!

I URGED HIM TO TELL ME HIS STORY AND HE DID...



...I WAS A MOUNTAIN GUIDE... LEMUEL RIVERS, BEST IN THE COUNTRY! ONE DAY, A LONG TIME AGO, A PARTY CAME TO ME TO GUIDE THEM ACROSS PINE MOUNTAINS...

IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S TOO LATE IN THE YEAR! THE BIG SNOWS ARE DUE!

WE'LL CHANCE IT! IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO US, MR. RIVERS!



A GIRL IN THE PARTY, ROSEMARY, ADDED HER PLEAS! I WAS STRUCK BY HER BEAUTY...

WHY, WITH YOUR REPUTATION, YOU NEVER SHOULD TURN DOWN A PARTY AS ANXIOUS AS WE ARE TO CROSS THE MOUNTAINS!

I MUST BOW BEFORE SUCH COURAGE AND BEAUTY!



IT WAS THE HAPPIEST JOURNEY I HAD EVER TAKEN... BECAUSE ROSEMARY WAS WITH ME! WE FELL IN LOVE! BUT THEN... THE SNOWS CAME...

YOU WERE RIGHT, DARLING! THE SNOW HAS STARTED!

WE'LL TAKE TO SHELTER! I'LL SPEAK TO THE OTHERS, ROSEMARY!



THE FOLKS WERE GETTING ANXIOUS! I COULD TELL THEY WERE UNEASY ABOUT THE HEAVY SNOW FALL...

I ONCE BUILT A SHACK NEAR HERE, FOLKS! WE'D BETTER DIG IN THERE! THE SNOWS WILL LET UP SOON!

WE'D BE STUCK THERE TOO LONG!

MAYBE WE'D BETTER PUSH ON!



I WON AND WE SOUGHT SHELTER IN THIS SHACK! THE SNOWS WERE FALLING HEAVILY...

ARE YOU SURE THE SNOWS WON'T LAST LONG, LEM?

I'M SURE, ROSEMARY! JUST A FEW DAYS!



BUT I WAS WRONG! THE SNOWS NEVER LET UP! WE WERE COMPLETELY SNOWED IN, AND OUR SUPPLIES SOON GAVE OUT! SOME HAD ALREADY DIED...

I AM DYING, DEAR!

NO, NO! YOU MUST PULL THROUGH, ROSEMARY!

ONE BY ONE I SAW THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY DIE, AND THEN, ROSEMARY! I FELT IT WAS MY FAULT! I VOWED NEVER TO LEAVE HER UNTIL SHE RETURNED TO ME! I PUT HER IN THAT COFFIN!

HAVE NO FEAR, ROSEMARY! I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU! YOU'LL COME BACK SOME DAY!

THE OLD MAN FINISHED HIS TERRIBLE STORY! THEN HE LED ME TO A DOOR AND OPENED IT! THERE WERE FIVE BODIES THAT SEEMED TO HAVE DIED MORE RECENTLY THAN ROSEMARY...

(GASP!) WHO ARE THEY?

THEY ARE FIVE MEN WHO CAME TO FIND THIS PASS! THEY HAD TO DIE!

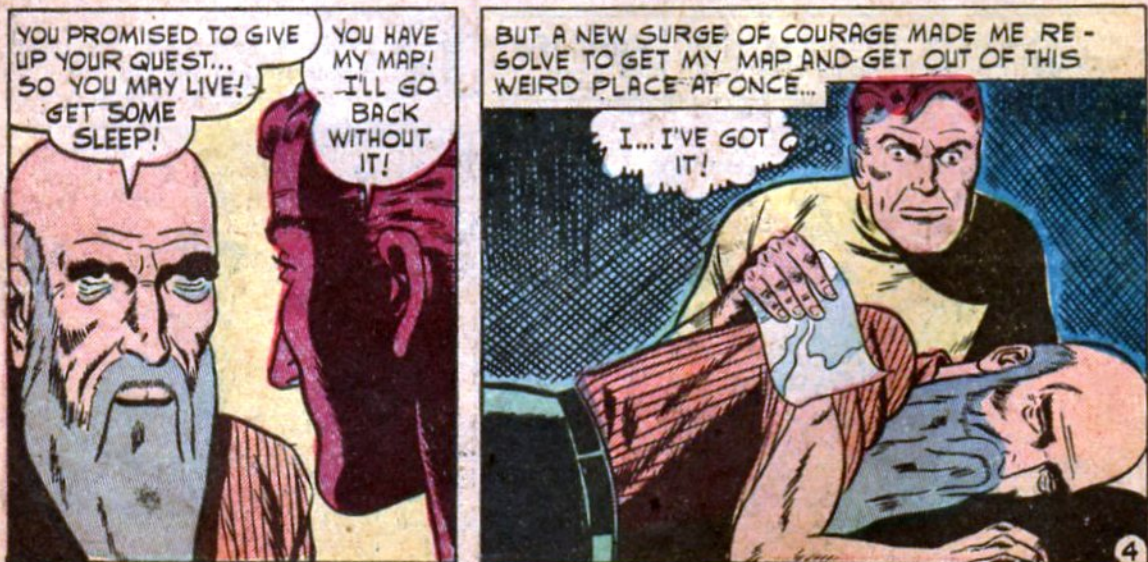


YOU PROMISED TO GIVE UP YOUR QUEST... SO YOU MAY LIVE! GET SOME SLEEP!

YOU HAVE MY MAP! I'LL GO BACK WITHOUT IT!

BUT A NEW SURGE OF COURAGE MADE ME RE-SOLVE TO GET MY MAP AND GET OUT OF THIS WEIRD PLACE AT ONCE...

I... I'VE GOT IT!



AS I RAN DESPERATELY THROUGH THE GHOSTLY MOONLIT NIGHT, I HAD THE STRONG FEELING THAT I WAS BEING FOLLOWED...

THOSE SOUNDS; (PUFF, PUFF) IS IT THE OLD MAN?

TU-WHOO
TU-WHOO

AND THEN, AFTER AN ETERNITY, I SAW A TOWN! I LAUGHED WILDLY...

AT LAST! (PUFF)
AT LAST!

BUT MY LAUGHTER FROZE ON MY LIPS... THERE WAS THE OLD MAN... HOLDING HIS RIFLE...

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY?

I...
I...

A SHOT RANG OUT! AGONY PIERCED MY CHEST AS THE OLD MAN PULLED THE TRIGGER!

NOW YOU MUST DIE!

ARGHH!

BLAM!

MORTALLY WOUNDED, I COULD ONLY WATCH THE OLD MAN TAKE THE MAP FROM MY HELPLESS FINGERS...

THE VILLAGERS ARE COMING! NOW THEY CAN HAVE YOU! I'LL TAKE THE MAP!

OH!!

SOMEONE'S BEEN SHOT!

LET'S GO SEE!

HALF-CONSCIOUS, I FELT MYSELF BEING LIFTED UP! THE PAIN KNOCKED ME OUT AGAIN!

HE MUST BE THE RAILROAD FELLER! LOOKIN' FOR THE LOST PASS!

THE OLD MAN... HE'S AFTER ME... DON'T LET HIM TAKE MY MAP...

THE POOR FELLA'S DELIRIOUS!



HAL WAS CARRIED TO THE TOWN HOSPITAL! NEXT MORNING...

THE OLD MAN IS AFTER ME! STOP HIM! MY MAP...

SHH... YOU'RE SAFE NOW!



I KNEW I WAS DYING, BUT IT FELT GOOD TO WAKE UP IN A CLEAN BED...

NURSE... WHAT TOWN IS THIS?

THIS IS THE TOWN OF FIVE NOTCHES!



I FELT I HAD TO UNBURDEN MYSELF TO THE DOCTOR, TELL MY STRANGE STORY BEFORE I DIED! WHEN I CAME TO THE PART ABOUT THE SHACK, I COULD SEE THEY DID NOT BELIEVE ME...

IT'S ALL TRUE, I TELL YOU! THERE WAS A DEAD GIRL! THE OLD MAN SAID THE LOST PASS BELONGED TO HIM AND HER... THE RIVERS PASS! HE SHOT ME... BECAUSE I HAD MAPPED IT OUT!

BE QUIET... HUSH...



AT THAT MOMENT THE NURSE RAISED THE WINDOW BLIND... AND I SAW A STATUE OUTSIDE! IT WAS LEM RIVERS!

THAT'S THE OLD MAN WHO SHOT ME!! WHY... WHY A STATUE? WHY?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, HAL! THAT MAN'S BEEN DEAD FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!



THE DOCTOR TOLD ME A STORY ABOUT THE STATUE...



THIS TOWN IS NAMED AFTER THE FIVE NOTCHES ON HIS RIFLE! HE FOUNDED THIS TOWN BEFORE HE SHOT FIVE MEN WHO TRIED TO ENCROACH ON HIS TERRITORY! WE NEVER FOUND HIM!

YES, THERE WAS A NOTCH FOR EACH DEAD MAN ON HIS RIFLE!



HIS NAME IS LEMUEL RIVERS!
THAT'S WHY THE LOST
TRAIL IS CALLED
RIVERS PASS!

THAT'S
THE
NAME OF
THE MAN
WHO SHOT
ME! IT IS!
OH!!!



POOR CHAP!
HE'S DEAD!



WHAT A STRANGE STORY! I DON'T
BELIEVE HIM BUT I'M GOING
OUT TO LOOK
AT THAT STATUE!

I'M COMING,
TOO, DOCTOR!



SOMETHING DREW THE DOCTOR
AND NURSE OUTSIDE...THEY SAW
SOMETHING THAT MADE THEM
GASP IN HORROR..

L-LOOK!

(GASP!) IT CAN'T
BE!



THERE WAS A FRESHLY CARVED SIXTH NOTCH ON THE
STATUE'S RIFLE! AT ITS BASE WAS A...MAP!

LOOK! A SIXTH
NOTCH ON THE
RIFLE!

AND THE
MAP! IT'S
HAL CHASE'S!
HOW DID THEY
GET THERE?
I WONDER?

DON'T YOU WONDER
TOO, OR
DO YOU
BELIEVE
HAL'S
STORY!
HEH, HEH,
HEH!

THE END

Terror Comes in Threes

LET GO OF ME!
YOU'RE DEAD — DEAD!
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
HELPPP! I'M FALLING...

I'VE COME TO
BRING YOU...
DEATH!

THE BEAUTEOUS ORCHID, CHERISHED BY THE RICH AND LOVELY, TAKES SEVEN YEARS TO COME TO FLOWER. FROM THE DECAY OF DEATH IT BLOSSOMS INTO A RARE BLOOM. IN THE REAR OF HIS FLORIST'S SHOP, ARNOLD KEEL SPENT YEARS OF RESEARCH AND SUDDENLY FOUND — RICHES — A WAY TO BRING THE ORCHID TO BLOOM IN **THREE WEEKS!** HIS THREE ASSISTANTS, JOSH, KIP AND BEN, ENVIED HIM HIS UNSHARED SECRET. THEIR GREED BIT INTO THEIR SOULS, LEADING THEM DOWN A DANGEROUS FLOWERY PATH OF TERROR FROM WHICH THEY COULD NEVER TURN BACK.

A. G. HOLLINGSWORTH

AN EXCITED CRY FROM THE REAR OF ARNOLD KEEL'S FLOWER SHOP REACHED JOSH, BEN AND KIP IN THE MIDST OF THEIR CHORES WITH THE FLOWERS.

BOYS, I'VE DONE IT, I'VE DONE IT!
AT LAST...

WHAT'S ARNOLD
YAPPING ABOUT?

HE PUTTERS
IN HIS LAB
WHILE WE
DO ALL THE
WORK!

MAYBE HE'S
FOUND IT. LET'S
GO SEE!

IN THE SMALL LABORATORY ARNOLD HAD RIGGED UP, HE HAD JUST FOUND SUCCESS WITH HIS FORMULA — HE HAD MADE A SEVEN-YEAR ORCHID BLOOM IN **THREE WEEKS!**

I DID IT! I'LL BE
WEALTHY!

JEANNE, DARLING! I'VE FOUND THE ORCHID FORMULA!

HOW WONDERFUL, ARNOLD! WE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE FROM IT!

THE RUGGED YOUNG JOSH TALLEY LISTENED ENVOUSLY TO HIS BOSS'S CONVERSATION ON THE TELEPHONE.

I'VE DONE PLENTY OF WORK ON THAT FORMULA. HE SHOULD CUT ME IN!

YES, DEAR, WE'LL BUILD A HANDSOME NEW HOUSE!

KIP AND BEN, TOO, BURNED WITH ENVY AS THEY HEARD ARNOLD'S GLEEFUL WORDS.

I OUGHT TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF THIS. I'VE WORKED HERE FOR YEARS.

WONDER IF THE BOSS'LL REMEMBER ALL I'VE DONE IN THIS STORE!

AS TIME PASSED, ARNOLD ACQUIRED THE TRAPPINGS OF WEALTH. THE ACID OF GREED BURNED DEEPER INTO THE SOULS OF THE THREE ASSISTANTS—JOSH, KIP AND BEN.

WELL, HE'S GOT EVERYTHING NOW—AND HE DIDN'T EVEN GIVE US A RAISE!

WE RUN THE STORE AND HE ENJOYS LIFE! NOW HE'S CALLED THE ORCHID KING, JOSH!

HE'S EVEN GOT A GORGEOUS WIFE, KIP!

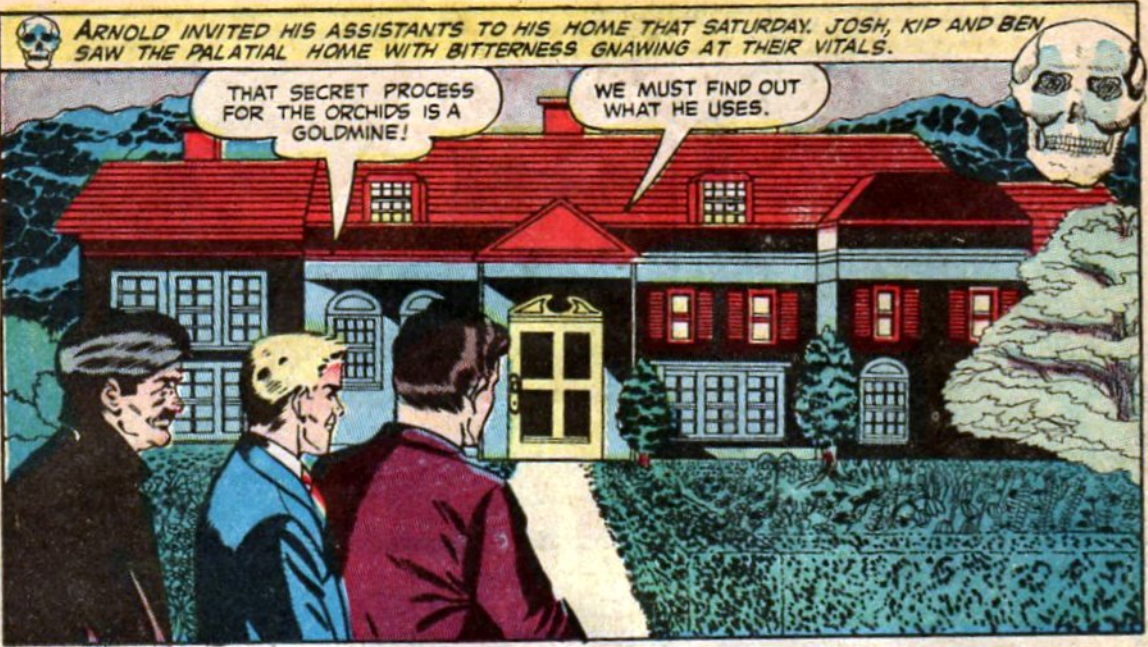
NEXT MORNING IN THE FLOWER SHOP...

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US THE STORE FOR OUR SHARE, ARNOLD? YOU DON'T HAVE TO SELL THE FLOWERS TOO, WITH YOUR SECRET FORMULA.

I LOVE TO BE WITH FLOWERS, JOSH. WHEN I DIE, I JUST WANT LOTS OF FLOWERS AT MY FUNERAL.

WE'VE WORKED HARD FOR YOU, ARNOLD. WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU? YOU SHOULD TELL US WHAT YOUR SECRET FERTILIZER IS.

NO JOSH! I WILL NOT TELL WHAT THE SECRET IS! I FOUND IT AND I WILL KEEP IT!



ARNOLD INVITED HIS ASSISTANTS TO HIS HOME THAT SATURDAY. JOSH, KIP AND BEN SAW THE PALATIAL HOME WITH BITTERNESS GNAWING AT THEIR VITALS.

THAT SECRET PROCESS FOR THE ORCHIDS IS A GOLDMINE!

WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT HE USES.



DURING DINNER, EACH MAN BROODED UPON HIS OWN POOR LOT—COMPARED WITH ARNOLD'S...

...SO, SPEAKING OF FLOWERS—WHEN I DIE I WANT EVERYONE TO SEND ME LOTS OF FLOWERS—THEY ARE MY PASSION. HA! HA!

I'D LIKE TO OBLIGE YOU, ARNOLD.



DON'T THINK OF SUCH GLOOMY THINGS, ARNOLD!

EVEN HIS WIFE'S MORE THAN HE DESERVES—SO YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL!



BACK IN HIS LAB, ARNOLD PROCEEDED WITH HIS AMAZING INJECTIONS OF THE ORCHID PLANTS, BRINGING THEM TO FLOWER IN RAPID SUCCESSION—AND FOR HIMSELF—GOLD!

MY PATIENCE ALL THESE YEARS IS WELL REWARDED—AND IT'S SO SIMPLE! BUT I NEED MORE OF MY SECRET FERTILIZER.



THE NEXT DAY ARNOLD SET OUT ON HIS REGULAR MONTHLY, MYSTERIOUS TRIP...

WELL, GOOD-BYE, FELLOWS! SEE YOU TOMORROW!

GOOD-BYE, ARNOLD! HAPPY HUNTING! SO LONG!



IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE HE GOES EVERY MONTH, JOSH!

IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SECRET FERTILIZER.

WHY DON'T WE FOLLOW HIM, BEN?



LOSING NO TIME, JOSH AND THE BOYS CLOSED UP SHOP AND HURRIED TO TRAIL ARNOLD...

FOLLOW ME, BOYS...WE'LL BE RICH, TOO!

I SAW HIM GO TOWARD THE HIGHWAY. HE'S DRIVING THE FLOWER TRUCK!



DON'T STAY TOO CLOSE TO ARNOLD'S CAR. HE'LL SUSPECT HE'S BEING TRAILED!



WONDER WHAT HIS SECRET IS?

WE'LL SOON KNOW!

WHAT IF HE NEVER COMES BACK?



YES—WHAT IF WE SEE TO IT THAT HE NEVER—COMES—BACK!



HE STOPPED NEAR THE CEMETERY!

HE'S GOING TO THE OLD LIME PIT! THAT'S HIS SECRET—LIME!

SUPPOSE WE LOOSEN THE SLAB—WHEN HE CLIMBS UP HE'LL FALL IN BELOW!



JOSH SNEAKED BEHIND HIM. THE FERTILIZER WAS LIME FROM A PIT FED BY THE DEBRIS OF AN ANCIENT CEMETERY. JOSH LOOSENED A SLAB...



WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING HERE? WHY HAVE YOU FOLLOWED ME?



KIP AND BEN EDGED UP MENACINGLY TOWARD ARNOLD—AS HE CLIMBED SLOWLY TOWARD THE TOP OF THE PIT—TO THE LOOSENED SLAB...

YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD... EEEEEEEE! MY FOOT SLIPPED! I'M—FALLING! ARGH! ARRRRGH... HELP ME!

NO GOOD FOR WHO? HAAAA—HA!



WITH MACABRE INSTINCT, JOSH WENT TO THE REFRIGERATED TRUCK ARNOLD HAD DRIVEN AND BROUGHT BACK THREE ORCHIDS. AND AS ARNOLD SLOWLY SANK INTO THE LIME...

BOYS, ARNOLD WANTED FLOWERS AT HIS FUNERAL, REMEMBER? HERE'S AN ORCHID FROM JOSH!

OH, YES! ONE FROM BEN, ARNOLD!

AND AN ORCHID FROM KIP, TOO! HA HA HA! THAT'S FUNNY!



CURSE YOU! I SHALL RETURN YOUR FLOWERS—EVEN FROM THE DEAD! IN A YEAR, YOU WILL ALL BE DEAD, TOO!

ARNOLD SANK SLOWLY TO HIS DEATH—JOSH, KIP AND BEN LAUGHED AT ARNOLD'S PROMISE....

THE THREE BOYS LOST NO TIME IN GETTING BACK TO THE LAB BEHIND THE SHOP...

WELL, BOYS, THIS IS IT. YES, THE CEMETARY LIME IS THE SECRET. NOW WE'LL BE RICH!

WHAT ABOUT HIS WIFE, JEANNE? SHE'LL WANT THE STORGE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!



TWO MONTHS LATER, JOSH HAD MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS WITH JEANNE.

I HATE TO SAY THIS, JEANNE, BUT ARNOLD WAS GETTING QUEER. HE'LL NEVER COME BACK!

I SUPPOSE NOT, JOSH. EVEN THE POLICE HAVE GIVEN UP LOOKING FOR HIM!



YOU MUST KNOW, JEANNE, HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU. MARRY ME AND I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET EVERYTHING!

I'LL MARRY YOU, JOSH. YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND—SO SWEET.

JOSH ENJOYED HIS WEALTH AND HIS MARRIED HOME-LIFE. BOTH THE ORCHID SECRET AND JEANNE WERE NOW HIS...

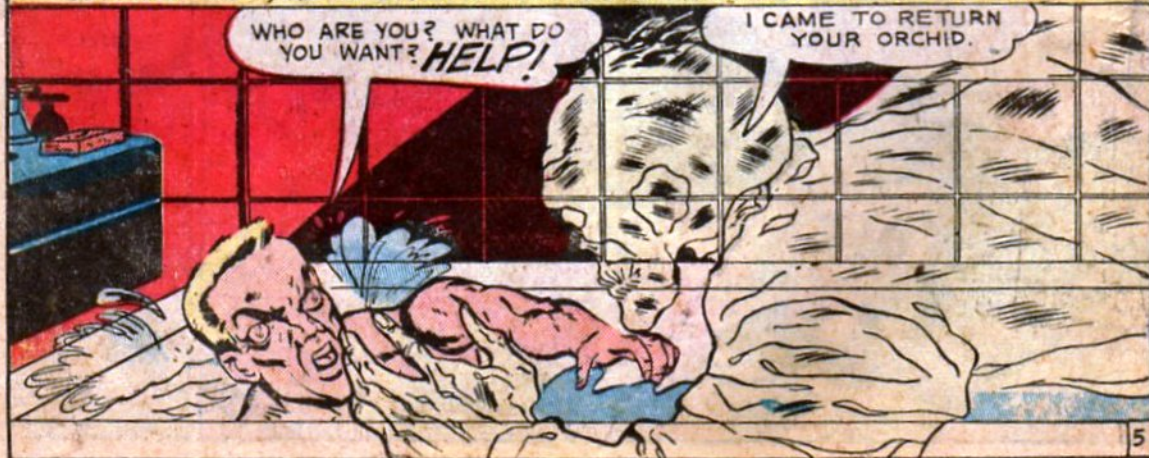
EVERYTHING WORKED OUT PERFECTLY FINE FOR ME!



BUT THAT NIGHT, KIP RECEIVED A WEIRD VISITOR WHILE TAKING A BATH—DEATH!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT? **HELP!**

I CAME TO RETURN YOUR ORCHID.





ALL JOSH COULD THINK OF WAS THAT HE MUST GET AWAY—FAR AWAY! HE REMEMBERED ARNOLD'S DYING PROMISE AND HE WAS AFRAID.



BUT, JOSH, WHY SUCH A RUSH? I'D LOVE A TRIP, BUT WHY NOT NEXT WEEK?

NO, JEANNE. MY NERVES ARE SHOT. I WANT TO GET AWAY.

AT LAST, IN MID-OCEAN, JOSH FELT SAFE. THE DAYS PASSED PEACEFULLY—TRANQUILLY UNTIL—



DARLING, PLEASE GET ME THE SPY-GLASS. I WANT TO MAKE OUT THAT OBJECT IN THE WATER.

SURE, DEAR. I'LL BE RIGHT. YOU KNOW, TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF ARNOLD'S DISAPPEARANCE.



THE THING ON THE WATER DREW CLOSER. IT WAS...IT WAS...

ARNOLD! BUT YOU'RE DEAD! —BURIED IN THE LIME PIT! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

JUST—TO—BRING YOU—AN—ORCHID. THE ONE I PROMISED YOU!



NO—NO! GO AWAY! EEEEEEE!



JOSH, FRIGHTENED TO INSANITY, FELL OVER THE RAIL TO HIS DEATH....

WHEN JEANNE RETURNED, THE CAPTAIN AND THE CREW WERE AT THE DECK-RAIL.

THIS IS TERRIBLE, MRS. TALLEY. YOUR HUSBAND FELL OVERBOARD.

WHAT? OH, NO! NO!



HEAVENS—IT'S JOSH! WHAT'S THAT—NEAR HIM?



WHY—IT'S AN ORCHID! HOW DID IT GET THERE?



WHAT ARE THESE STRANGE FOOT-PRINTS, CAPTAIN?

LOOKS LIKE LIME! HOW DID LIME EVER GET HERE—IN MID-OCEAN?



THEY NEVER FOUND OUT, BUT YOU KNOW. —DON'T YOU?

She'll be your "Dream Girl"
You'll "Bewitch" her with it



Daring
"BLACK
MAGIC"



"DREAM GIRL" She'll look alluring, breathtaking, enticing, exotic... Just picture her in it... beautiful, fascinating SEE-THRU sheer. Naughty but nice... It's French Fashion finery... with peek-a-boo magic lace... Gorgeously transparent yet completely practical (washes like a dream... will not shrink). Has lacy waistline, lacy shoulder straps and everything to make her love you for it. A charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion... In gorgeous Black.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHIONS DEPT. 109
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send me DREAM GIRL gown at \$9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

() I enclose \$9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

() I will pay postman \$9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40
IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Heaven Sent

Oriental Magic



Out of the pages of the Arabian Nights comes this glamorous sheer Harem pajama. She'll look beguiling, alluring, irresistible, enticing. She'll thrill to the sleek, clinging wispy appeal that they will give her. She'll love you for transplanting her to a dream world of adoration centuries old. Brief figure hugging top gives flattering appeal to its daring bare midriff. Doubled at the right places it's the perfect answer for hostess wear. Billowing sheer bottoms for rich luxurious lounging. She'll adore you for this charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion. In wispy sheer black.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHIONS DEPT. 276
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send HEAVEN SENT gown at \$9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

() I enclose \$9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

() I will pay postman \$9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40
IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Black Sorcery



Daring
Bare-back
She'll be
entranced
with it

Your Dream Girl will be an exquisite vision of allurements, charm, fascination and loveliness in this exotic, bewitching, daring, bare-back, filmy sheer gown. Its delicate, translucent fabric (washes like a dream) will not shrink. Paris at home, with this cleverly designed halter neck that ties or unties at the flick of a finger. Lavishly laced midriff and peek-a-boo bottom. She'll love you for this charm revealing Dream Girl Fashion. In exquisite black sheer.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back.

DREAM GIRL FASHIONS DEPT. 398
318 MARKET ST., NEWARK, N. J.

Please send BLACK SORCERY gown at \$9.95. If not entirely satisfied, I'll return within 10 days for full cash refund.

() I enclose \$9.95 cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid (I save up to 90c postage). (You may get it at our store too!)

() I will pay postman \$9.95 plus postage. Check size wanted:

☐ 32 ☐ 34 ☐ 36 ☐ 38 ☐ 40
IN BLACK ONLY

(If you don't know the size send approximate height and weight.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____



TERROR IN THE STARS

By ELLEN LYNN

THE men in our observatory called us the "three musketeers." Karl Manley, Russ Fenway and I had been buddies since boyhood—but the bond between Karl and me was especially close. We had always been interested in the same things, and as we grew older our interest in astronomy became an enthusiasm. I was even in love with the same girl, Lucy Tremont, but I knew she loved Karl — and I kept my frustrated emotions to myself.

Our new research laboratory was in the middle west, Lucy lived in the East. Often I would hear the low-voiced love-making of Karl as he spoke to her over the telephone. Although he was a scientist—perhaps because of it—Karl had the soul of a poet and the sentiments of love he expressed to Lucy (which I couldn't help overhearing since I was usually seated right next to him) were worthy of a Browning.

The hardest thing for Karl and Lucy was their separation—he in the west, she in the east. "I can't stand her being so far away from me," Karl once blurted out after one of his long-distance phone calls. "It's getting so I can hardly concentrate on my work. And Lucy is unhappy, too. We've decided to get married after this next field trip; she'll have to give up her job and come to live here."

By a lucky chance, Karl, Russ and I had been assigned together to a field trip to our new laboratory on the top of Mt. Crenshaw. The largest, newest, most powerful telescope in the world based on nuclear theories had been recently completed there and we were to spend a month observing the heavens and writing papers on our findings. Russ rushed over to the both of us and boyishly placed an arm around each of our shoulders, bent over our desks. "We're going together, boys," he exclaimed happily. "That's really a break for us! We'll explore the heavens—far beyond what men have seen before. It's our big chance."

I grinned up at Russ, just as pleased as he was that the three of us were to be together on the job. But Karl seemed not to have heard. The pencil in his fingers was not writing, his eyes had a far-away look. Russ, in his jovial way, slapped Karl on the back. "Brace up, fella, Lucy'll be

waiting for you—and you'll be back in four weeks." Without answering, Karl had gone to the telephone to speak to Lucy in the East.

The day before our departure, Karl had a wonderful surprise: Lucy had come out, just to say goodbye. The pang I felt at seeing the two dreamy-eyed lovers fall into each other's arms was equalled by the relief that at last Karl could ease up in his tension. The visit from Lucy was just what he needed, so that he could once again put his brilliant mind to work.

I drove Karl and Lucy to the airport to catch her plane back East. As though I weren't even there, they spoke endearing words of farewell before she got into the plane. "Really, kids," I tried to jest, "this isn't the last goodbye—only four weeks and you two will never be parted again. Remember?"

Lucy stared intently into Karl's eyes, and remained silent a moment. Then she said, rather solemnly, "You are right, Steve, Karl and I will never be parted. I swear it. No matter what happens, he and I will always be together."

"Spoken like a true lover," I declared, trying to break the spell of seriousness that had been cast.

Karl insisted on our waiting at the airfield till the plane disappeared like a bird into the heavens.

Back at the lab we put the finishing touches to our packing, and Russ's gay spirits somewhat lifted the cloud of gloom that had previously settled over Karl. He actually smiled a few times and by the time we started on our trip he was as good as his old self. He was even able to speak of Lucy without going into a spell. "Come to think of it," he said with a grin, "we'll be so busy the next few weeks, time ought to fly—and then Lucy and I will be married. I've been in a terrible mood lately, boys. It's been rough on you, I know, trying to get me to do my share of the work. But it'll all be different once Lucy and I are together for good."

Russ and I sighed with relief. It was good to have Karl act like a normal human being again. And when we reached the isolated hilltop where the marvelous telescope was situated he set to his observations and notes with renewed enthusiasm

and zest—perhaps even greater than the zeal Russ and I felt. The three of us looked through the powerful lens and felt an awesome thrill at the panorama of heavenly bodies sparkling brilliantly in the infinite space beyond. Karl worked tirelessly, long through the night—even after Russ and I had retired. For we were able to see far beyond the distances men's sight had travelled before.

One night I stirred uneasily in my sleep and woke up. I looked at the clock: it was three in the morning. Then I was startled by the sight of Karl standing in my room in the dim shadows. What on earth is he doing in here? I thought. Could he be walking in his sleep? His eyes were opened and he was staring at me with a strange expression. Then he whispered: "Steve—Steve—are you awake? I—I must talk to you."

I sat bolt upright. "What is it, Karl?" I asked, considerably disturbed by this apparition in the wee hours of the morning. "Is anything wrong?"

He came close to my bedside and I put on the lamp. His face looked ghastly and I was filled with a foreboding. Had he been working too hard? Was he suffering more from his separation from Lucy than we had realized?

Finally he spoke, in a queer voice. "Karl—I've seen Lucy! Now—don't say I'm mad! I've checked and double-checked."

"What do you mean?" I interrupted. "Is she here? Checked what?"

"I have been experimenting with the new mirror we developed and it's unbelievable. Then a few nights ago, Saturday, at 11:30 I saw her for the first time. It was so vague, I wasn't sure. I thought I was just imagining it. Last night I looked again—and there she was, plainly. My new nuclear sights were trained on Saturn. There she was—beckoning me. She wants me to come to her. She was beyond, even the stars."

I was flabbergasted. I didn't know how to handle this situation. My dear friend, my close buddy, had become deranged. Of that I was convinced. I did the best I could to reassure him, to humor him. "Tomorrow we'll telephone Lucy. That should ease your mind, Karl."

"No, no! I mustn't keep her waiting. She insists I join her at once," he declared.

"Well, get some sleep, Karl," I advised him. "And if you must, you can return after breakfast."

He left my room and I tried, not too successfully, to go back to sleep. A half hour later I was beginning to doze off when a sound outside made me leap from my bed and rush to the window. There was Karl, a knapsack on his shoulders, setting out to climb to the utmost peak of Mt. Crenshaw. I yelled after him. Russ came dash-

ing in and together we called to Karl, but he continued his rapid ascent without looking back. We stood there helplessly watching. Knowing Karl, we both realized it would be useless to try to stop him, even if we could possibly reach him at the pace he was going.

"But what is he after?" Russ asked in bewilderment.

I told him the incident in my room and of Karl's hallucination that he saw Lucy beckoning him to come to her into space. In spite of our anxiety, I understood Russ's outburst of laughter. It was a nervous reaction, true, but it was also ludicrous to think of Karl marching off into space to find his lady-love.

There was no more sleep for either of us. We dressed and kept our eyes on the figure of Karl gradually growing smaller as he mounted higher and higher toward the peak hidden in clouds. Then, when our naked eyes could no longer see more than a dot we each picked up small telescopes and continued to follow our friend's fantastic climb.

Just before Karl disappeared into the mists, he turned around and we saw his face clearly in the lens. He was smiling joyously, and raised an arm to wave a friendly farewell. Somehow, this gesture depressed us and we gave up our vigil. That was the last we ever saw of Karl. He had gone, he said, to join his Lucy in space. How were we going to break the awful news to the real Lucy who would be waiting, waiting for Karl's return—expecting to be married the next day!

When we knew for certain that we saw the end of Karl, we returned to our headquarters. A telegram was waiting for him. We decided to open it. The message stunned us both. It was from Lucy's father. It read:

Mr. Karl Manley
Baldwin Observatory
Mt. Crenshaw

Shocking news. Just learned Lucy killed
in accident Saturday 11:30 P.M.

Benjamin Troll.

"Saturday—11:30!" I exclaimed involuntarily. That was the exact date and time Karl first saw the vision of Lucy through the new nuclear telescope! They had sworn never to be apart. He had gone to join her! Can we believe that? We are scientists.

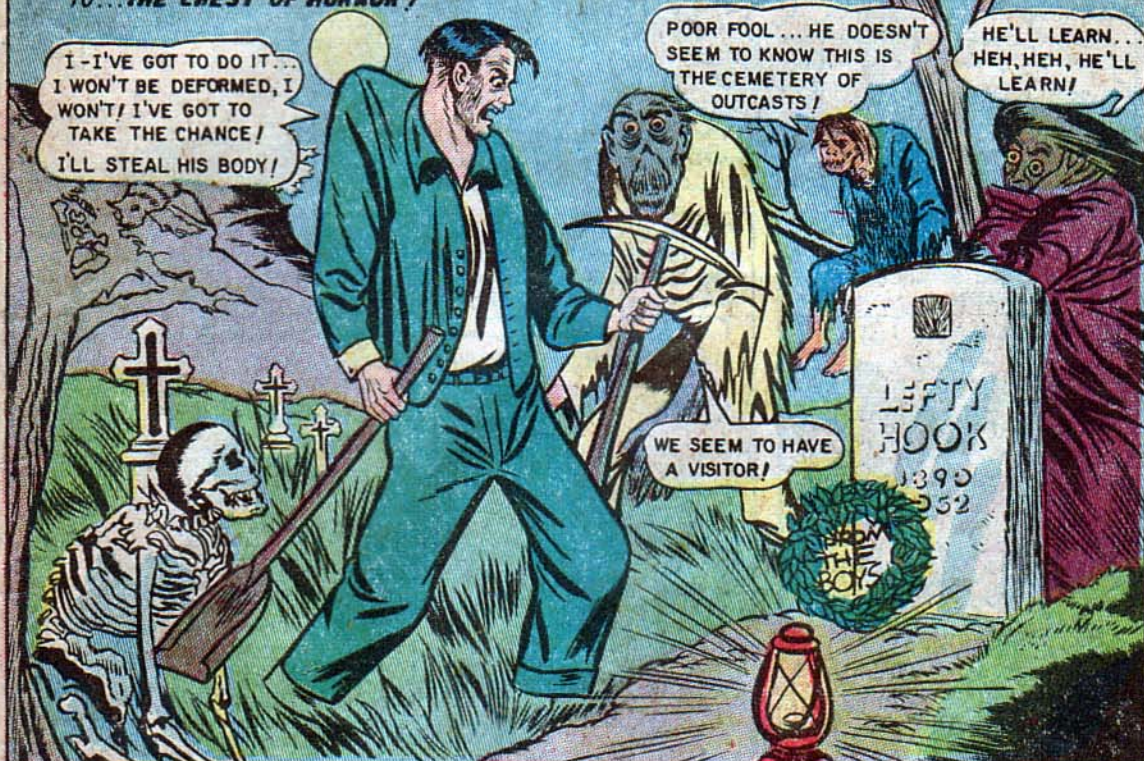
But what do you believe?

THE END



DEAD MAN'S CHEST

HEH, HEH, SO YOU WANT MORE HORROR, EH? THIS LITTLE TALE SHOULD FILL YOUR APPETITE! WE GUARANTEE YOUR KNEES WILL QUAKE, AND THE EDGE OF YOUR SPINE CRAWL, AS THIS STORY OF TERROR AND THE SUPERNATURAL COMES TO LIFE... OR DEATH, HEH! HEH! READ ON, YOU BRAVE ONES, TO... **THE CHEST OF HORROR!**



OUR STORY OPENS ON A COLD DECEMBER NIGHT AT A SKI LODGE IN NEW ENGLAND...

WHAT A WONDERFUL VACATION IT'S BEEN, DARLING... AND BEST OF ALL, MEETING YOU! I LOVE YOU, MARVA!

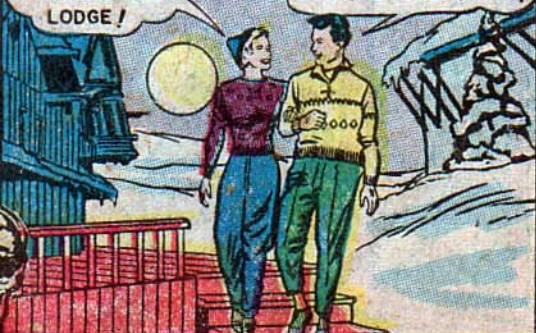
I DIDN'T BELIEVE I COULD BE SO LUCKY... SNARING SUCH A HANDSOME MAN! OH, TED, EVERYTHING IS SO PERFECT!



TOUCHING SIGHT, EH? JUST TWO LOVERS... BUT WAIT, THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING...

YOU'RE ALL I'VE EVER DREAMED ABOUT, DARLING HANDSOME, STRONG, ... WHY, YOU EVEN SKI BETTER THAN I DO... AND I USED TO BE CHAMP OF THE LODGE!

HEY, THAT'S AN IDEA, MY DEAREST, EX-CHAMP... LET'S GO SKING NOW! IT'S A MARVELOUS NIGHT... AND I FEEL LIKE I COULD FLY OVER THE TREES!



MARVA DIDN'T LIKE THE IDEA, BUT THERE WAS NO STOPPING TED...

TED, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T... THERE ARE ROCKS AND BOULDERS UNDER THE SNOW THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE! WAIT UNTIL DAYLIGHT...

I DON'T NEED DAYLIGHT, DARLING... MOONLIGHT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! I'M GOING TO SHOW MY LOVE WHAT AN ATHLETE SHE'S GOING TO MARRY!



OH, YES, TED WANTED TO IMPRESS MARVA, ALL RIGHT... AND SO DOWN THE TREACHEROUS SLOPE HE WENT AT BREAKNECK SPEED...

WITH MARVA TO WATCH ME, THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I COULDN'T DO! I...



BUT THEN, ALMOST BEFORE HE REALIZED IT... AN AVALANCHE THREW A LARGE BOULDER ON THE WHITE PATH...

AN AVALANCHE! I-I CAN'T STOP!



THE CALM OF THE NIGHT WAS SHATTERED BY TED'S SCREAM AND THE SOUND OF BROKEN BONES AND SMASHED SKIS...

OH... (MOAN)... M-MY CHEST... OH... (MOAN)



BUT THE PAIN WAS TOO MUCH FOR TED, AND SILENCE CLAIMED HIM WHEN HE AWAKENED... IT WAS IN A HOSPITAL...

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME... MY CHEST, TWISTED...

TAKE IT EASY, MR. BROOKS... YOU'VE HAD A BAD ACCIDENT... BUT YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



THE DOCTORS KEPT TED AWAY FROM A MIRROR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT TWO WEEKS LATER, WHEN HE WAS ALLOWED OUT OF BED...

OH, GOOD LORD, NO! NO! I'M UGLY... HIDEOUS!

TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT, MR. BROOKS! YOUR FRIENDS AND THOSE WHO LOVE YOU WON'T MIND! IN FACT THERE'S A YOUNG LADY OUTSIDE WHO'S BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU! I'LL GO GET HER AND...



BUT TED DIDN'T WANT MARVA TO SEE HIM... HE REFUSED TO ALLOW HER IN... HE KNEW HE MUST RID HIMSELF OF HIS DEFORMITY SOMEHOW...

SHE'D BE REPELLED... I'M HORRIBLE TO LOOK AT... MARVA WOULD BE SICKENED AT THE SIGHT OF ME! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING... SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE!

LET ME IN, TED!



WHEN TED WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL, HE VISITED EVERY BONE SURGEON IN THE CITY... BUT HE RECEIVED LITTLE COMFORT...

YOU'RE MY LAST HOPE, DR. ULRICH! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME... I CAN'T LIVE THIS WAY... I'D RATHER DIE!

YOURS IS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM, MR. BROOKS. IN SOME CASES WE CAN TRANS-PLANT BONES, BUT YOUR CASE OF ATKYLOSIS IS DIFFERENT! THERE IS NO OTHER BONE IN YOUR BODY WHICH CAN BE USED! WE MUST HAVE A FRESH ONE, EXACTLY LIKE THAT WHICH WAS SHATTERED!



CAN'T YOU GET ONE FROM SOMEWHERE? YOU MUST -- I DON'T CARE WHAT IT INVOLVES!

I'M AFRAID NOT, MR. BROOKS! MANY PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR EYES TO THE EYE BANK WHEN THEY DIE... BUT YOUR BONE OPERATION NECESSITATES COMPLETELY DISSECTING A NEWLY DEAD BODY... FEW PEOPLE WILL PERMIT THAT!



TED LEFT DR. ULRICH'S OFFICE IN A FRENZY OF MISERY AND DESPERATION...

LOOK AT EVERYONE STARING AT ME... PITINGLY AND YET REPULSED BY MY UGLINESS! I'VE GOT TO FIND AN ANSWER... I'VE GOT TO!



ALONE, HIDDEN FROM STARES OF THE WORLD, IN HIS APARTMENT, TED FOUND THE ANSWER LATER THAT NIGHT...



DR. HENRY ULRICH'S SYMPATHIES HAD BEEN DEEPLY MOVED BY TED'S PLIGHT, AND SO, WHEN HE RECEIVED A PHONE CALL THAT NIGHT...



... AND IF I GET A FRESH BODY, WOULD YOU PERFORM THE OPERATION? YOU'VE GOT TO, DR. ULRICH, MY WHOLE LIFE'S AT STAKE!

WELL... ALL RIGHT, BROOKS... BUT I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHERE OR HOW YOU GET THE BODY! IF YOU GET IT, HOWEVER, I'LL TRANS-PLANT THE BONE!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT, AT THE SHABBY, DESOLATE CEMETERY OF UNCLAIMED BODIES OF THE STATE...

NOBODY'LL EVER KNOW... LEFTY HOOK'S FAMILY DIDN'T WANT HIS BODY... SO THERE'LL BE NO ONE TO CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO IT!

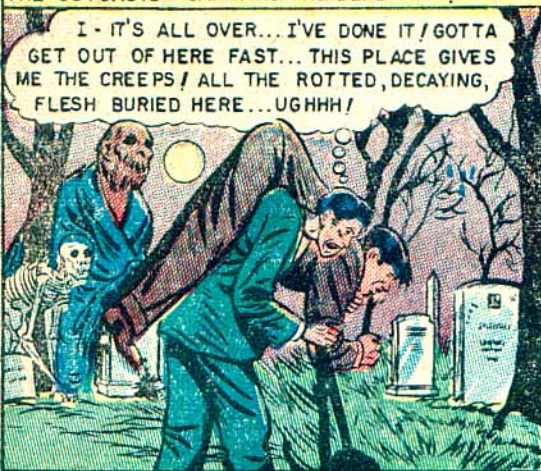


AFTER AN HOUR OF DIGGING, TED REACHED HIS "GOAL"...



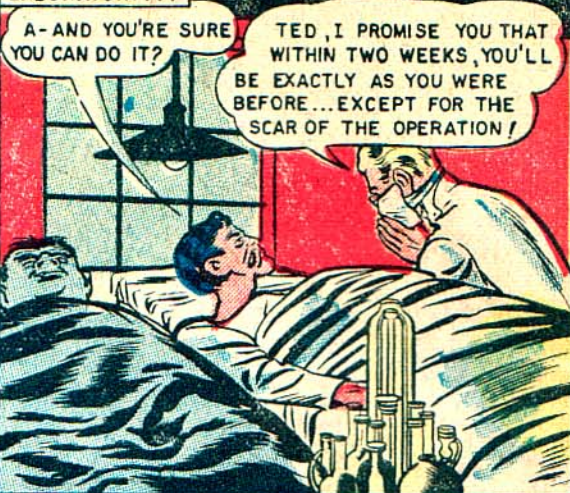
YOU MAY HAVE KILLED THREE PEOPLE, LEFTY... BUT THIS IS ONE LIFE YOU'RE GOING TO SAVE!

AFTER REMOVING THE STILL WARM BODY, TED REPLACED THE COFFIN AND BURIED IT AGAIN... THEN, HE HURRIEDLY LEFT THE CEMETERY OF THE OUTCASTS CARRYING THE DEAD MAN!



I - IT'S ALL OVER... I'VE DONE IT! GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST... THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS! ALL THE ROTTED, DECAYING, FLESH BURIED HERE... UGHHH!

THE OPERATION WAS PERFORMED THE NEXT NIGHT IN THE SECRECY OF DR. ULRICH'S PRIVATE LABORATORY...



A - AND YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN DO IT?

TED, I PROMISE YOU THAT WITHIN TWO WEEKS, YOU'LL BE EXACTLY AS YOU WERE BEFORE... EXCEPT FOR THE SCAR OF THE OPERATION!

DR. ULRICH WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... FOR THIRTEEN DAYS LATER...

I - I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, DR. / I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT... I'M ME AGAIN!

MAKE SURE YOU STAY THAT WAY... NO SHOWING OFF FOR WOMEN! HAHA!



AND SO, THINGS RETURNED TO NORMAL AGAIN FOR TED... HE AND MARVA TOOK UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF...

I JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT WHEN YOU WOULDN'T SEE ME, TED! I - I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T LOVE ME ANY-MORE!

NO, DARLING, IT WASN'T THAT... I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE YOU SEE ME THE WAY I LOOKED! WE'LL FORGET THESE PAST TWO MONTHS EVER HAPPENED, DARLING! WE'LL START ALL OVER AGAIN!



IT WAS WHEN HE WAS DRESSING TO TAKE MARVA TO A DANCE A FEW WEEKS LATER, THAT TED FIRST NOTICED ANY TROUBLE...

GEE, THIS SHIRT FEELS TIGHT AROUND MY CHEST... I CAN HARDLY BUTTON IT! MUST BE GAINING WEIGHT SINCE THE OPERATION!



TED IGNORED THE SWELLING IN HIS CHEST UNTIL HE NOTICED THAT EACH DAY IT GOT PROGRESSIVELY LARGER...



IT'S A SWELLING-- IT'LL GO AWAY!

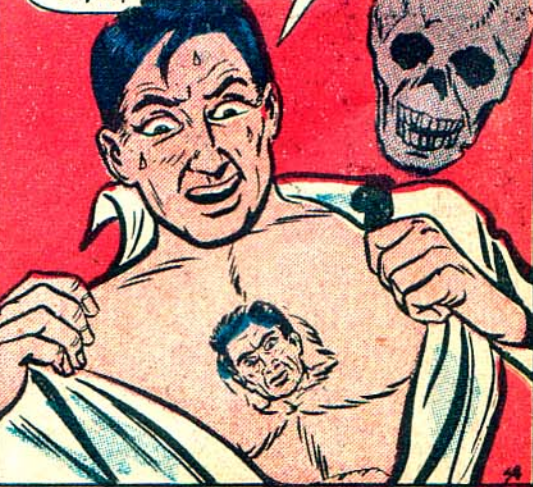


IT'S GETTING LARGER...



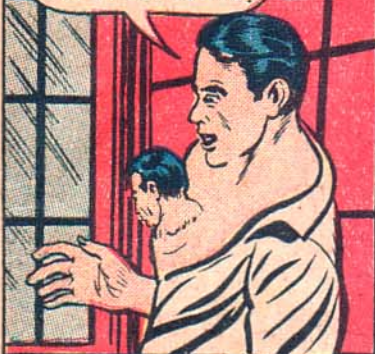
... AND LARGER! OH, NO!

I - I DON'T BELIEVE IT... IT CAN'T BE! IT'S LEFTY HOOK'S HEAD! OH, NO!



**BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE IT, TED...
FOR THERE IT IS, GROWING OUT
OF YOUR CHEST... LEFTY
HOOK'S HEAD!**

HOOK! T-THIS IS INSANE... I
MUST BE GOING CRAZY... D-DR.
ULRICH... HE'LL HELP ME!
GOT TO GET TO HIM!



**BUT AS POOR TED STARTED
FOR THE DOOR... HE
REMEMBERED HOOK WAS A
KILLER!**



**PEOPLE WOULD ASK QUESTIONS!
HOOK MIGHT BE RECOGNIZED!**

**POOR TED, HE WAS IN A DILEMMA, FOR NOW, HE
WAS MORE REPULSIVE THAN EVER...AND AFRAID!**

I-I CAN'T KEEP THIS MONSTER CONCEALED
ANY LONGER... MARVA WOULD BE REPELLED...
OH, GOOD LORD, WHAT CAN I DO?



TED DARLING, WHERE
ARE YOU? YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO PICK ME
UP OVER AN HOUR AGO
...WE'RE LATE FOR
THE THEATRE!

OH..ER...MARVA...I CAN'T
MAKE IT TONIGHT/I...ER...
I'M SICK!



**BUT NOW A STRANGE THING HAPPENED... THE
PEACEFUL TED NOW FELT AN URGE TO KILL!
ONLY AN URGE HOOK COULD PRODUCE!**



**TED STAYED COOPED UP IN HIS APARTMENT FOR
OVER A WEEK, HARDLY EATING OR SLEEPING...HE WAS
AFRAID TO SLEEP... AFRAID OF WHAT LEFTY HOOK
MIGHT MAKE HIM DO!**

C-CAN'T GO TO
SLEEP... DON'T
DARE... HE'S



AT LAST THE STRAIN BECAME MORE THAT TED COULD BEAR, HE LAPSED INTO A LONG DEEP SLEEP...

THAT'S IT... SLEEP LIKE A BABY, TED... CAUSE NOW LEFTY'S GONNA HAVE SOME FUN... JUST LIKE OLD TIMES!



WITH HIS BRAIN AT REST, TED'S BODY FOLLOWED LEFTY'S COMMANDS...

THAT'S RIGHT... JUST KEEP WALKIN', TEDDY!



A TERRIBLE SCREAM WAS WHAT AWAKENED TED...

KILL! KILL HER!

OH, I ALMOST KILLED HER!

UGHHH!



C'MON, TED... FINISH HER! YOU DON'T WANT HER TO TELL THE COPS!

I-I DIDN'T DO IT! Y-YOU DID!



IN UTTER PANIC AND BEWILDERMENT, TED FLED TO HIS APARTMENT... BUT OUTSIDE THE DOOR HE FOUND A VISITOR...

TED! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU... I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU... IT'S BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE...

GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU STUPID DAME!



TED, HOW CAN YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT? WE MEANT SO MUCH TO ONE ANOTHER, WE...

DARLING, I DIDN'T SAY THAT! HOOK DID!

KILL HER! KILL HER!



NO! I WON'T LET YOU, HOOK... NOT, MARVA... NOT HER!

TED... TED...



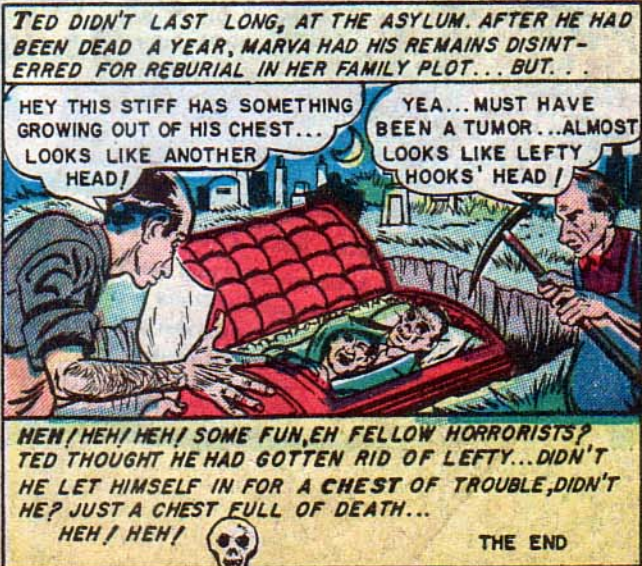
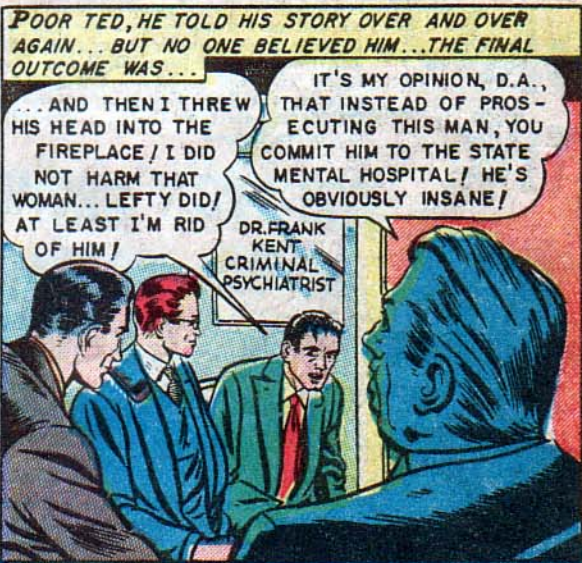
MARVA BANGED ON TED'S DOOR, BUT TO NO AVAIL...HE WOULDN'T LET HER IN...



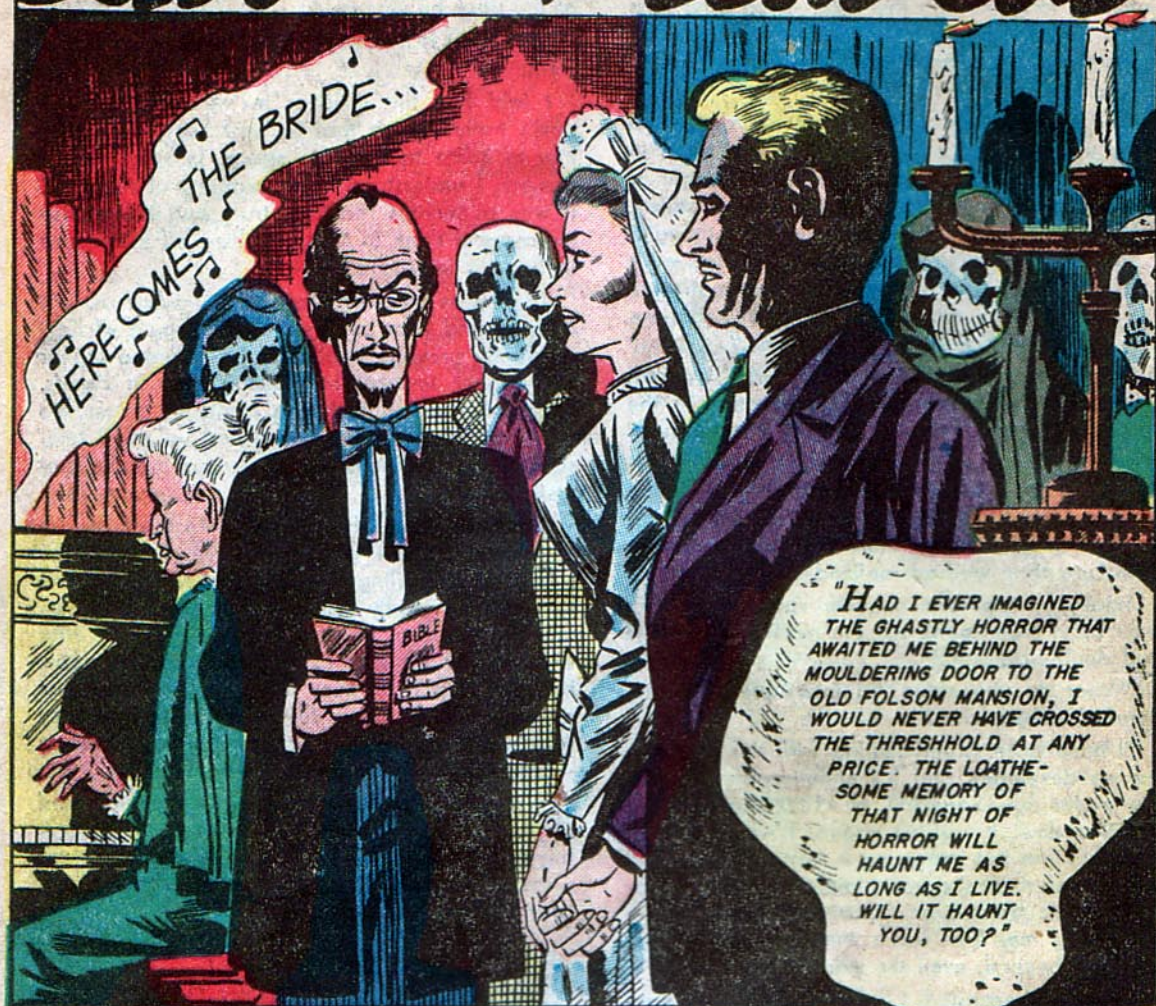
FROM THE HALL WHERE SHE STOOD, MARVA HEARD A TERRIBLE SCREAM... AND THEN, SILENCE...



NO SOONER DID HE DISPOSE OF LEFTY'S HEAD, THAN TED COLLAPSED! WHEN HE AWAKENED...



DON'T Marry a DEAD ONE!



"I'D ALWAYS BEEN VERY IMPATIENT WITH THE WAY MY FATHER HAD RUN HIS ANTIQUE BUSINESS. WHEN I TOOK CHARGE OF THE STORE, AFTER HIS DEATH, MY AMBITION WAS TO SPECIALIZE ONLY IN RARE COLLECTORS' ITEMS. BUT MY CASH ASSETS WERE LIMITED."

WITH THIS JUNK, NO WONDER I CAN'T ATTRACT GOOD COLLECTORS / BUT HOW CAN I LAY MY HANDS ON GOOD ANTIQUES WITH MY SKIMPY FUNDS?



"I TRIED AUCTIONS..."

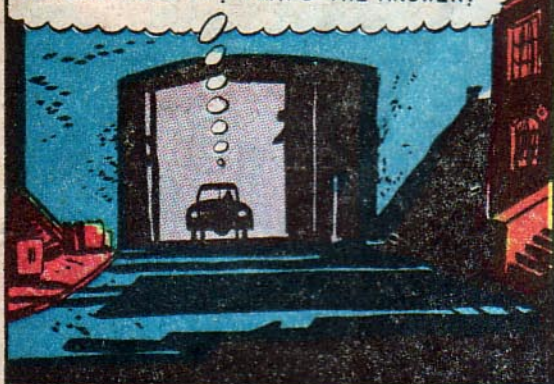
GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE FOR \$250.00...

250 BUCKS! I'M WASTING MY TIME IN THIS PLACE / OH BROTHER, WHAT PRICES!



"AS I WAS DRIVING BACK TO THE SHOP IT SUDDENLY CAME TO ME."

THESE OLD MANSIONS SHOULD BE LOADED WITH ANTIQUES/SOME OF THE OWNERS MUST BE PRETTY HARD UP, TOO! A SMART DEALER COULD MAKE A KILLING... SURE...THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE ANSWER!



"THE BELL CLANGED HOLLOWLY...THEN THERE WAS SILENCE. I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN THE DOOR CREAKED SLOWLY OPEN."

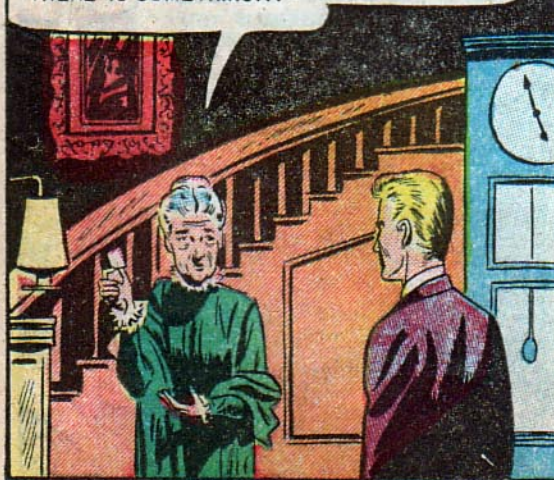
YES?

ERR...GOOD AFTERNOON, MADAM/MAY I I'VE A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR TIME?HERE'S MY CARD!



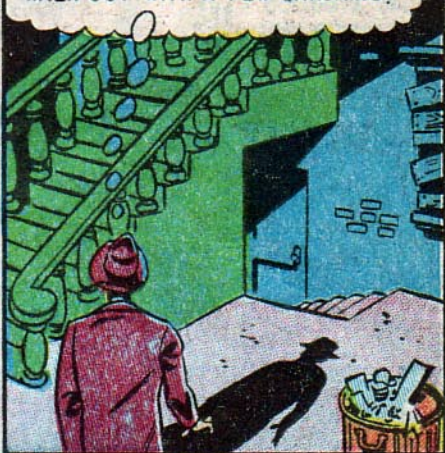
"AT FIRST SHE HESITATED, STARING INTENTLY AT ME, THEN HER MOOD SEEMED TO CHANGE."

COME IN, MR. AMERO. PERHAPS...PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING...



WHY FATE GUIDED ME TO THE DECAYING OLD BROWN-STONE ON THE CORNER, I'LL NEVER KNOW. IN THE SLANTING AFTER-NOON LIGHT IT LOOKED EERIE AND SINISTER."

WHOEVER LIVES HERE CAN'T BE TOO FLUSH OR THEY'D KEEP THE PLACE UP.WHO KNOWS? I MIGHT WALK OUT WITH A FEW BARGAINS!



CHARLES AMERO... ANTIQUE DEALER! WELL,WHAT IS IT,YOUNG MAN?

FORGIVE ME, BUT I COULDN'T HELP IMAGINING HOW TASTEFULLY FURNISHED YOUR HOME MUST BE! I THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLY YOU MIGHT HAVE A FEW OLD THINGS STORED AWAY THAT YOU WOULD CARE TO SELL!



WOW! LOOK AT THIS STUFF!WHAT I'D GIVE TO SEE THE REST OF THE HOUSE! I WONDER IF SHE HAS ANY IDEA OF IT'S VALUE?



"WE WALKED DOWN ANCIENT STAIRS"...

COME--THERE MAY BE SOME PIECES DOWN IN THE BASEMENT!



"WHEN I SAW WHAT WAS IN THE BASEMENT I NEARLY DIED. THE SORT OF THINGS YOU FIND ONLY IN FIRST CLASS ANTIQUE SHOPS AT TOP PRICES!"

HM...THERE ARE SOME THINGS I COULD USE/ WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO \$200. FOR THE WHOLE LOT?

AH... YES... THAT SOUNDS... ALL RIGHT!



"FEVERISHLY I COUNTED OUT THE MONEY BEFORE SHE COULD CHANGE HER MIND."

HERE YOU ARE! I'LL WRITE UP A LIST AND YOU CAN SIGN...

WAIT!...THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE, CHARLES AMERO/NOW I WILL TELL YOU WHY I LET YOU IN!



YOU WERE SENT BY THE FATES, CHARLES AMERO! THE DATE IS THE SAME! EVEN YOUR FACE IS... LIKE HIS!

"IT WAS OBVIOUS THE OLD WOMAN WAS CRAZY! JUST LOOKING AT HER GAVE ME THE CREEPS, BUT I HAD TO HUMOR HER! OTHERWISE THE DEAL MIGHT FALL THROUGH!"

OH, COME NOW, NOBODY SENT ME HERE! BUT... ERR... IF I CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY, I'LL BE GLAD TO...

I KNEW YOU WOULD/ AND I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE! IT... IT CONCERNS MY DAUGHTER, AGNES FOLSON!



YOU SEE, SHE WAS TO HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO CHARLES OGLESBY. I... DID NOT APPROVE OF THE MATCH SO I WENT TO HIM SECRETLY THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING AND PAID HIM A LARGE SUM TO LEAVE TOWN!



AT THE TIME SET FOR THE WEDDING, THE MINISTER AND ALL THE GUESTS WERE PRESENT... BUT... NO CHARLES! I'D WON, YES... BUT MY DAUGHTER COLLAPSED FROM THE SHOCK! SHE HASN'T LEFT THE HOUSE OR SPOKEN TO A SOUL SINCE!



I AM AN OLD, SICK WOMAN, MR. AMERO, BUT I CANNOT DIE IN PEACE UNTIL MY AGNES IS MARRIED! TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC OCCASSION! IF YOU WILL MARRY HER, I WILL PAY YOU TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!

MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER!



"NOW I KNEW SHE WAS INSANE! WHO ELSE WOULD OFFER A STRANGER \$10,000 TO MARRY HER DAUGHTER? AND WHERE WOULD A CRAZY OLD CREATURE LIKE THIS GET \$10,000? I DECIDED TO CALL HER BLUFF!"

\$10,000? MRS. FOLSOM, YOU'RE JOKING!

I'M NOT JOKING! I HAVE THE MONEY RIGHT HERE! TO ME IT IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR MY DAUGHTER'S HAPPINESS!

"THE SIGHT OF ALL THAT MONEY MADE ME THINK FAST! TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, PLUS THE HOUSE AND ALL ITS FURNISHINGS! IT WOULD ALL BE MINE SOMEDAY!"

YOU...YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT ME TO AGREE WITHOUT FIRST SEEING YOUR DAUGHTER?

FOLLOW ME, MR. AMERO! BUT DON'T MENTION WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU! LET ME DO THE TALKING!

CHANCES ARE SHE'S AN UGLY DISH, BUT FOR \$10,000-- WHO CARES? THERE'S ALWAYS A DIVORCE OR, IF SHE'S BATTY TOO, I COULD HAVE HER COMMITTED AFTER THIS OLD WITCH DIES AND THEN I'D HAVE EVERYTHING!

"THE OLD WOMAN TOOK ME INTO A SMALL, DUSTY PARLOR. HER DAUGHTER WAS RECLINING QUIETLY ON A CHAISE BY THE FIREPLACE. I HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH INDESCRIBABLE BEAUTY."

AGNES! IT IS CHARLES! YOU SEE, HE HAS COME BACK TO YOU!

"THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET I FELT WEAK WITH LOVE FOR HER. I COULD HARDLY CONTROL MY SHAKING VOICE."

I'LL DO IT! SET THE DATE!

CHARLES HAS COME BACK TO MARRY YOU, MY DARLING! THE WEDDING WILL BE TONIGHT, JUST AS YOU PLANNED! NOW, OFF WITH YOU, CHARLES! IT'S BAD LUCK FOR A GROOM TO SEE HIS BRIDE BEFORE THE WEDDING!

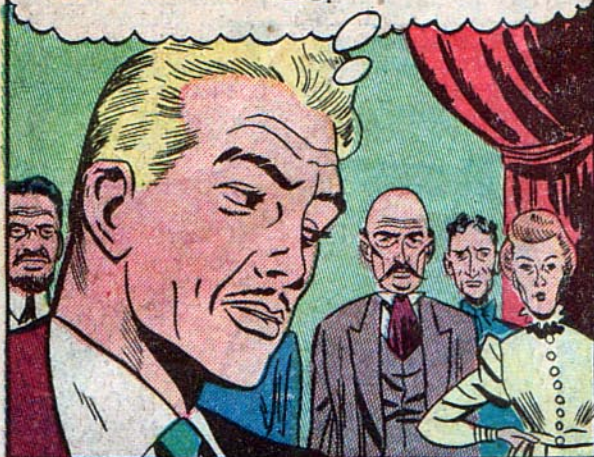
YOU SEE, SHE THINKS YOU ARE HER CHARLES! SHE EVEN BELIEVES THIS IS HER WEDDING DAY! COME BACK THIS EVENING AT NINE O'CLOCK! OH... THE RING...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT! I HAVE THE RING THAT BELONGED TO MY MOTHER!

"THE CLOCK WAS STRIKING NINE AS I RETURNED. THE HOUSE, DARK AND FORBIDDING, SUGGESTED A FUNERAL MORE THAN A WEDDING. BUT WHEN I RANG THE BELL THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN..."

COME IN. THE MINISTER AND ALL THE GUESTS ARE WAITING IN THE PARLOR. THE CEREMONY IS READY TO BEGIN!

WHY ARE THEY ALL SO QUIET? IF THESE ARE A SAMPLE OF AGNES' FRIENDS I DON'T BLAME HER FOR BEING MENTALLY UPSET! I'LL BE GLAD TO GET HER AWAY FROM HERE!



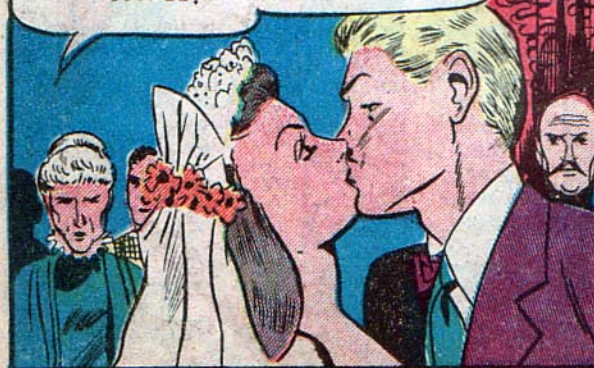
"WHEN SHE REACHED MY SIDE AN OLD JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BEGAN INTONING THE SERVICE!"

DO YOU, CHARLES, TAKE THIS WOMAN, AGNES...

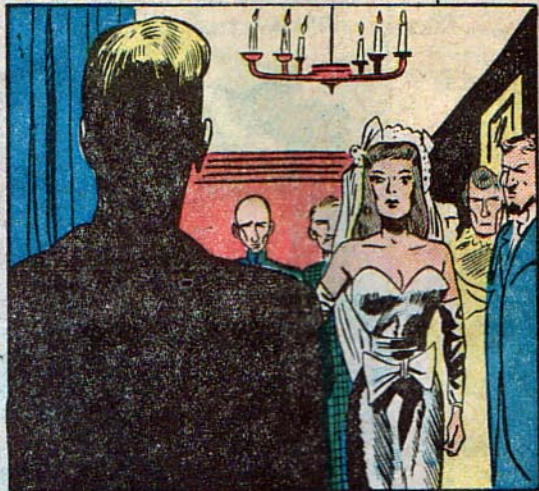


"WHEN THE CEREMONY WAS OVER I KISSED HER BEAUTIFUL UPTURNED LIPS. THEY WERE AS COLD AS MARBLE AND HER EYES SEEMED TO STARE THROUGH MINE. THE MOTHER'S VOICE BROKE THE TOMBSTONE SILENCE!"

AND NOW TO THE DINING ROOM! WE WILL DRINK A TOAST TO THE HAPPY COUPLE!

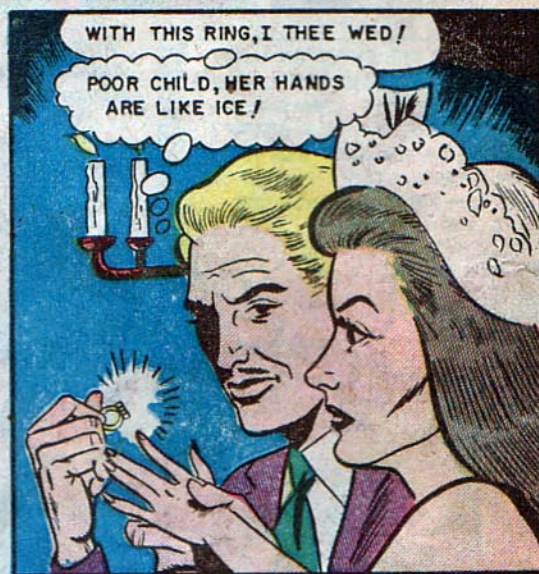


"AS THE OLD ORGAN WHEEZED OUT THE WEDDING MARCH, AGNES APPEARED. SHE CAME SLOWLY TOWARD ME AS IF IN A DREAM!"



WITH THIS RING, I THEE WED!

POOR CHILD, HER HANDS ARE LIKE ICE!



"WE ENTERED THE BANQUET ROOM. THE TABLE WAS SET WITH FINE OLD SILVER AND CRYSTAL GOBLET, BUT THERE WAS A THICK LAYER OF DUST OVER EVERYTHING AND LONG COBWEBS HUNG FROM THE CEILING!"

TO AGNESS... AND CHARLES! NOW THAT I HAVE FULFILLED MY VOW TO SEE MY DAUGHTER MARRIED I CAN...

WHAT TERRIBLE JOKE IS THIS? THIS ROOM HASN'T BEEN CLEANED IN YEARS!



"SHE GASPED, HER EYES BULGED HORRIBLY AND SHE COLLAPSED IN A CRUMPLED HEAP!"



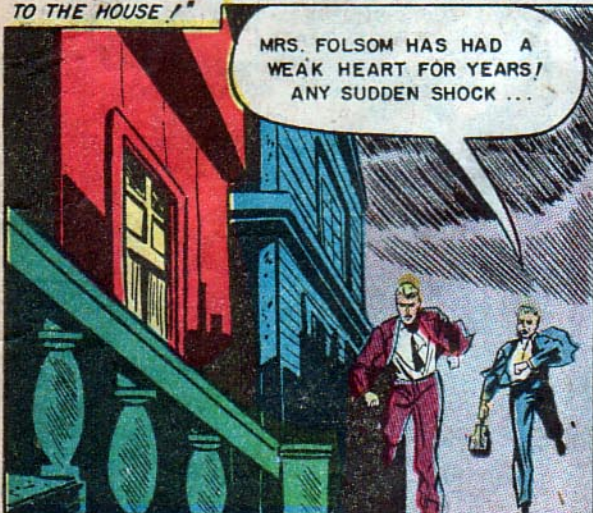
DO SOMETHING! GET A DOCTOR! GOOD HEAVENS! WHY DO YOU JUST STAND THERE?



I'LL GO FIND A DOCTOR, IF NOBODY ELSE WILL! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



"I SAW A DOCTOR'S SHINGLE HALFWAY DOWN THE BLOCK! I ROUTED HIM OUT AND WE RUSHED BACK TO THE HOUSE!"



"AS THE DOCTOR KNELT BESIDE THE CRUMPLED BODY OF MRS. FOLSOM, I REALIZED THAT ALL OF THE OTHERS HAD DISAPPEARED. . . EVEN AGNES!"



HER DAUGHTER? MRS. FOLSOM HAS NO DAUGHTER! SHE'S LIVED HERE ALONE FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS... A COMPLETE RECLUSE!

BUT YOU'RE WRONG! SHE HAS A DAUGHTER! AGNES... A BEAUTIFUL GIRL...



MY DEAR YOUNG MAN, MRS. FOLSOM HAD A DAUGHTER-- BUT FORTY YEARS AGO TONIGHT THE GIRL WAS JILTED AND COMMITTED SUICIDE! SINCE THAT DAY MRS. FOLSOM HAS BEEN ALL ALONE!

IT'S A LIE! A LIE! I CAN PROVE IT!



"I RUSHED UP THE STAIRS!"

AGNES! AGNES!

I FOUND AGNES' MOTHER
WHERE I LEFT HER. THEN
I LOOKED FOR AGNES.

"AS I SEARCHED ROOM AFTER
ROOM, FEAR CLUTCHED AT ME!
SHE HAD TO BE HERE! THERE WAS
ONLY ONE ROOM LEFT... I
OPENED THE DOOR..."

A ... COFFIN ...

"I HAD TO SEE WHAT WAS IN
IT! MY HANDS FUMBLING AT
THE HEAVY LID!"

CREAK!

IT CAN'T BE!... IT ISN'T!... IT ISN'T!
NOT AGNES!

"I WRENCHED MY HORRIFIED EYES FROM THE
GHASTLY, GRINNING SKULL TO THE CLASPED
HANDS AND A SICKENING WAVE OF HORROR
TUGGED AT MY THROAT!"

THE RING... MY MOTHER'S RING! THE ONE I
PUT ON AGNES' FINGER. NO... NO... NO...
NO... NO... NO!

AGNES! AGNES! AAAGGGHHHHH!

"THEY TELL ME I'M INSANE AND VIOLENT. NOW
THEY WON'T LEAVE ME OUT BECAUSE I INSIST
MY STORY IS TRUE-- BUT AT LEAST YOU
BELIEVE ME. DON'T YOU?"

THE END

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Alabama Jubilee
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Cryin' Heart Blues

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In the Garden
Faith of Our Fathers
There is Power in the Blood
Leaning on the Everlasting
Arms
Since Jesus Came Into
My Heart
Trust on Me

Jesus Keep Me Near the
Cross
Softly and Tenderly
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Mankind
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